

of public transportation, and the traveling public are depending on us to help provide significant safety and security improvements for public transportation.

I therefore urge the House's immediate consideration of H.R. 2351, which will protect the safety and security of our Nation's rail and transit systems and the passengers, workers, and communities that are served by them.

COMMENDING THE ISRAEL AIR
FORCE CENTER FOUNDATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to the Israel Air Force Center Foundation—a private non-profit charitable organization which has done a great deal to strengthen ties between the American people and the people of Israel and between the military organizations of the United States and Israel and to enhance the peaceful commercial uses of air and space technology.

I do this today, Mr. Speaker, because a group of the American leaders of the Israel Air Force Center Foundation will be visiting Washington next week. During their visit they will meet with leading Members of the Congress as well as other public and private leaders here in our nation's capital in an effort to strengthen the work of the Foundation and introduce American leaders to their work.

Mr. Speaker, the Israel Air Force Center is a unique Israeli institution—part think-tank (along the lines of the Rand Corporation in the United States) and part media, history, and resource center which focuses on Israel's emergence as a world leader in science and technology. The Center is located in Herzliya, Israel, and housed in a stunning building which opened in the summer of 2003.

The Israel Air Force Center was established by the Israel Air Force Association, a private organization which provides non-official sup-

port for Israel's fabled Air Force. The Association is similar to organizations in the United States which provide support for our own military organization such as the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), and like its American counterparts, it was founded by former Israeli Air Force officers.

The Israel Air Force Center was established to emphasize the link between the Israeli Air Force, its veterans, the people of Israel, and an international community committed to improving quality of life through science and the peaceful application of aerospace technology. Sponsors have established major research chairs at the Center, including one in aviation security, to aid policy makers in key decisions and to strengthen the economy and security of Israel and advance human knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, the Israel Air Force Center Foundation is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization in the United States which has as its objective providing financial support for the Israel Air Force Center and the activities of the Israel Air Force Association. I commend these patriotic Americans who participate in the Foundation's activities. Their efforts to strengthen the ties between the United States and Israel are important for both countries, and the support they give to the research and development activities of the Israel Air Force Center are beneficial to both the United States and to Israel.

As my colleagues know, American support for Israel is more critical than ever in today's unstable world. As the only stable democracy in the Middle East, it is our responsibility to help protect Israel from the multiplicity of dangers on its borders and its region, including threats from Iran and Syria. The Israeli military forces, including the Israel Air Force, are a vital deterrent to those threats. The partnership between the U.S. Air Force and the IAF sets an excellent example for military cooperation. Israeli-developed systems boost the American Air Force's targeting and navigation ability in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Israeli-developed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are a vital component of U.S. military efforts on both those fronts. Virtually every senior IAF officer has trained in the United States, and

most IAF equipment is U.S.-origin, including the F-15 and F-16 fighter jets, which form the backbone of the IAF's strike force.

In addition, the Israel Air Force Center provides fundamental information to the international community on current air force research. The Center's think-tank, the Fisher Brothers Institute for Air and Space Strategic Studies, fosters the growth of ideas and public debate by holding seminars and international conferences. The Aviation Safety and Security Center at the Institute is dedicated to enhancing and disseminating IAF expertise on aviation safety and security throughout the world.

In addition to its strategic function, specific programs of the Israel Air Force Center undertake numerous charitable activities. The Adelson Institute for Academic Studies reintegrates Air Force servicemen and women into civilian life through training courses, personal guidance and links to the private business sector. The Family Service Center assists Air Force families cope with trauma and bereavement. The Center provides tremendous support and an emotional outlet to those whose loved ones have been killed or injured in the line of duty. The Center also seeks to help the larger Israeli citizenry by adopting developing towns and supporting educational programs in underprivileged communities. The Association funds day-care centers, kindergartens and schools in need in addition sending members to tutor school children.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to witness the work of the Israel Air Force Center firsthand during a recent visit to Israel. That reinforced how critically important it is for the U.S. Air Force and the Israel Air Force to continue working together during this crucial time of instability and tension within the Middle East. At the same time, I was able to see the vital importance of the Center in contributing to the U.S.-Israel cooperative relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending the Israel Air Force Center Foundation for their significant contribution to U.S.-Israel relations, and I wish the Foundation increasing success in its important work.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 13

Time to be announced

Budget

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Stephen S. McMillin, of Texas, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Room to be announced

9 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Neil M. Gorsuch, of Colorado, and Jerome A. Holmes, of Oklahoma, each to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Kimberly Ann Moore, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, Bobby E. Shepherd, of Arkansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Gustavo Antonio Gelpi, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, Daniel Porter Jordan III, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, Steven G. Bradbury, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, R. Alexander Acosta, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Martin J. Jackley, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota, and Brett L. Tolman, to be United States Attorney for the District of Utah, S. 2453, to establish procedures for the review of electronic surveillance programs, S. 2455, to provide in statute for the conduct of electronic surveillance of suspected terrorists for the purposes of protecting the American people, the Nation, and its interests from terrorist attack while ensuring that the civil liberties of United States citizens are safeguarded, S. 2468, to provide standing for civil actions for declaratory and injunctive relief to persons who refrain from electronic communications through fear of being subject to warrantless electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence purposes, S. 3001, to ensure that all electronic surveillance of United States persons for foreign intelligence purposes is conducted pursuant to individualized court-issued orders, to streamline the procedures of the For-

eign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, S. 2831, to guarantee the free flow of information to the public through a free and active press while protecting the right of the public to effective law enforcement and the fair administration of justice, H.R. 1036, to amend title 17, United States Code, to make technical corrections relating to Copyright Royalty Judges, S. 155, to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to reform and facilitate prosecution of juvenile gang members who commit violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, S. 2703, to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965, S. 1845, to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit judges, to divide the Ninth Judicial Circuit of the United States into 2 circuits, and S. 2679, to establish an Unsolved Crimes Section in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and an Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Investigative Office in the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SD-226

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed revisions to the particulate matter air quality standards.

SD-628

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the current situation relative to Iraq.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine military commissions in light of the Supreme Court decision in *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*.

SH-216

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine H.R. 5254, to set schedules for the consideration of permits for refineries.

SD-366

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Eric Solomon, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy.

SD-215

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine challenges facing the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, focusing on efforts to address the backlog.

SR-418

Aging

To hold hearings to examine Medicaid to retiree benefits, focusing on the impact of seniors on health care costs in the United States.

SD-106

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Business meeting to markup H.R. 5672, making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and an original bill making appropriations for the government of the Dis-

trict of Columbia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine unmanned aerial systems in Alaska.

SD-562

Judiciary

Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine renewing the temporary provisions of the Voting Rights Act relating to legislative options after *LULAC v. Perry*.

SD-226

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Stephen S. McMillin, of Texas, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342

Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters.

SH-219

JULY 17

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine implementation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 provisions on hydrogen and fuel cell research and development.

SD-366

3 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Christina B. Rocca, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament.

SD-419

JULY 18

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Charles E. McQueary, of North Carolina, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense, Anita K. Blair, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Benedict S. Cohen, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, Frank R. Jimenez, of Florida, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy, David H. Laufman, of Texas, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense, Sue C. Payton, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, William H. Tobey, of Connecticut, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration, and Robert L. Wilkie, of North Carolina, to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

SD-106

Judiciary

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Department of Justice.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine United States and India energy cooperation in the context of global energy demand, the emerging energy needs of India,